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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,387	09/25/2001	Norbert Fenten	18584-0002	9735
29052	7590	10/07/2003	EXAMINER	
SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP			JOHNSON, EDWARD M	
999 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.			ART UNIT	
ATLANTA, GA 30309			PAPER NUMBER	

1754

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/937,387

Applicant(s)

FENTEN ET AL.

Examiner

Edward M. Johnson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-17, 23 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it repeats information in the title and also because the term "said" is used in line 2. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the various sections of the specification, including the Brief Description of the Drawings, are unlabeled.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 13-17 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 13, "the dust behavior" and "the comminuted silicate" both lack antecedent basis. Examiner suggests positive recitation of process steps.

Claims 14-17 and 23-24 provide for the "use" of certain materials, but, since the claims do not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a "use" without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced. Examiner suggests positive recitation of process steps.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. Claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a

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process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harrison et al. US 5,071,891.

Regarding claim 13, Harrison '891 discloses a method comprising coating silicate fillers (see column 6, lines 47-49 and Example 5) with a polymer comprising polyether and polysiloxane (see column 10, lines 1-6 and Example 6).

Regarding claims 14-15, Harrison '891 discloses 0.4-75% and 6.3 g in 3.5 liters (see Example 4 and column 10, lines 15-24).

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10. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wan et al. US 4,677,095.

Regarding claim 13, Wan '095 discloses a method for stabilizing aluminum silicate cordierite (see Example VI and column 1, lines 23-27) comprising coating with polyorganosiloxane and polyether (see abstract and column 8, lines 1-15).

Regarding claims 14-15, Wan '095 discloses 1-20% see column 4, lines 64-67).

11. Claims 13 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eklund et al. US 5,905,104.

Regarding claim 13, Eklund '104 discloses a heat resistant composition comprising a mixture of calcium metasilicate (see column 6, lines 1-23), polyether (see column 5, lines 40-44), and polysiloxane (see column 4, lines 26-31).

Regarding claims 16-17, Eklund '104 discloses calcium metasilicate and wollastonite (see column 6, lines 1-23).

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 18-22 are allowed.

13. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The 0.5-1.5 square meter per gram surface area and 500-1200 mg/100g dust content in the polysiloxane-polyether coated silicate of the instant claim 18

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would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Locke et al. US 6,291,019 discloses a method for dampening noise comprising mixing silicates, polysiloxane, and polyether (see abstract, Examples); Burnell-Jones US 2003/0085384 discloses heat curable resins comprising a combination of polysiloxane, silicates, and polyethers (see abstract, Examples).

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward M. Johnson whose telephone number is 703-305-0216. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley S. Silverman can be reached on 703-308-3837. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the

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receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

EMJ


STANLEY S. SILVERMAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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